

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

**APPARATUS, SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IMAGE PROCESSING WITH
INHIBITION CONTROL**

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] Referring now to the drawings, wherein like reference characters designate like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, Fig. 1 shows an image processing system having a plurality of image input devices. In this system, in order to prevent forgery, a specified pattern included in a document image is detected in input image data, and when the specified image or pattern is detected, output of the image data is inhibited. A computer 10 controls the entire system. The computer 10 has a central processing unit (CPU), a read-only memory (ROM) and a random access memory (RAM). Further, it includes a flexible disk drive, a hard disk drive, and a CD-ROM drive for memory media of a flexible disk 10a, a hard disk and a CD-ROM. An image processing program shown in Figs. 4 to 7 is read from such a recording medium. The computer 10 is connected to a scanner 12 and a digital camera 14 as an image input device. Further, the computer 10 is also connected to a plurality of printers 16 and 18 as an image output device for outputting the image data. When an image is formed, the computer 10 calculates color, size, resolution and the like of a hard copy of the output image, based on the data received from the image input device 12, 14 and output characteristics of the printer 16, 18. Then, the computer 10 detects the specified pattern and decides to permit or inhibit the image formation. Further, the computer 10 can be connected to a different image input

device or to a different image output device through a network ~~[[10]]~~ 20. It is to be noted that "input image" includes not only an image received by the computer 10 from an external image input device, but also an image generated in the computer 10. The above-mentioned system structure is common to other embodiments explained later.